

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 432

Introduced by Senator Ortiz

February 20, 2003

An act ~~relating to preschool~~ to add Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 8238) to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Code, relating to early childhood development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 432, as amended, Ortiz. ~~Preschool: access~~ *Early childhood development: preschool.*

~~Existing law, the ChildCare and Development Services Act administered by the State Department of Education, provides for the establishment of a system of childcare and development services to children 14 years of age and younger.~~

The California Children and Families Act of 1998, an initiative measure approved by the voters on November 3, 1998, establishes the California Children and Families Commission to provide information and materials and to formulate guidelines for the establishment of comprehensive early childhood development programs; provides for the establishment of county children and families commissions to adopt, promote, and implement local early childhood development plans; and establishes the California Children and Families Trust Fund to provide funding for these programs.

Existing law establishes state preschool programs administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Existing law requires that preschool programs for which federal reimbursement is not available be reimbursed through state funds as provided in the annual Budget Act.

Existing law requires each participant in the state preschool program to give priority to certain children, as specified.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a system of universal preschool for all children 3 and 4 years of age in California.

This bill would further state the intent of the Legislature to encourage the California Children and Families Commissions and the county children and families commissions to concentrate their assistance to children and families who reside in lower income neighborhoods and communities, as specified. The bill also would state the legislative intent that the California Children and Families Commission inform the Legislature, in the commission's annual report, of the extent to which funds disbursed from the California Children and Families Trust Fund reach children and families in these neighborhoods and communities.

This bill would additionally require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in preparing for the implementation of a Universal Preschool Program, to develop eligibility requirements for participation in the Universal Preschool Program and to establish the amount of reimbursement that a participant in the Universal Preschool Program will receive for providing services to each child enrolled in its program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact
- 2 legislation to establish a system of universal preschool for all
- 3 children, three and four years of age, in California.
- 4 *It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the California*
- 5 *Children and Families Commission and the county children and*
- 6 *families commissions, established pursuant to the Sections 130110*
- 7 *and 130140 of the Health and Safety Code, to concentrate their*
- 8 *assistance to children and families who reside in lower income*
- 9 *neighborhoods and communities, including neighborhoods and*
- 10 *communities with notable levels of childhood poverty, teen*
- 11 *pregnancy, school drop-out rates, unemployment, low maternal*
- 12 *educational achievement, and a high incidence of the presence of*
- 13 *lead and other environmental hazards, as determined by the latest*
- 14 *federal decennial census or the Current Population Survey.*



1 *It is further the intent of the Legislature that the California*
2 *Children and Families Commission, in its annual report submitted*
3 *pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 130150 of the Health and*
4 *Safety Code, inform the Legislature of the extent to which funds*
5 *disbursed from the California Children and Families Trust Fund*
6 *reach those lower income neighborhoods and communities.*

7 *SEC. 2. Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 8238) is added*
8 *to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Code, to read:*

9
10 *Article 7.5. Universal Preschool Program*
11

12 *8238. To prepare for the implementation of a Universal*
13 *Preschool Program, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall*
14 *do both of the following:*

15 *(a) On or before October 1, 2004, develop eligibility*
16 *requirements for licensed public or private child care providers to*
17 *participate in the Universal Preschool Program.*

18 *(b) On or before January 1, 2005, establish the amount of*
19 *reimbursement that a participant in the Universal Preschool*
20 *Program will receive for providing services to each child enrolled*
21 *in its program.*